

VIRGINIA HUD LINES

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E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

800/842-2610, extension 3742

Bill Miles, Director

www.hud.gov/virginia

HURRIC-AID

Governor Warner has announced the award of some \$4 million in HUD Community Development Block Grant funds to “bring much needed relief for those still feeling the effects from two of the most devastating natural disasters in Virginia’s recent history”- Hurricane Isabel and Tropical Storm Gaston. Funded by a special Congressional appropriations, the aid will help rebuild about 160 homes and infrastructure in Poquoson, Clarendon, Richmond, Hampton, Chesapeake and York and James City counties. DHCD expects to hold a second grant round to distribute a balance of \$1.7 million in CDBG funds for rebuilding later this summer. “Our agency is proud,” said DHCD’s Bill Shelton, to help “the ongoing, long-term rebuilding” in storm-damaged communities.

2005 HUD SuperNOFA COMPETITION RE-OPENS

Since “eligible applicants may have had difficulty submitting their applications” at www.grants.gov, HUD has re-opened the competitions for some of HUD’s 2005 SuperNOFA competitions, including the Youthbuild and Brownfields Economic Development Initiative. Other reopenings may occur. For details, please visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa05/reopenings.cfm>

MAGIC ON MAIN STREET

July 21st *Federal Register* announced the availability of \$5 million in HUD HOPE VI funds for “grants to small communities to assist in the rehabilitation or new construction of affordable housing in conjunction with an existing program to revitalize an historic or traditional central business district.” To be eligible for grants of up to \$500,000, communities must have no more than 50,000 residents, have a Main Street rejuvenation program and may not be served by a public housing agency that operates more than 100 public housing units. Deadline is September 2nd and there were technical changes in the August 1st *Federal Register*. Find out more at www.grants.gov

FUNDING-MENTALS

Want to know more about applying for HUD and other Federal funds? Then attend free, two-day “Grantwriting & More” workshops at the YWCA of Roanoke September 12th & 13th. Register with anne_davis@hud.gov or call her at 800/842-2610, extension 3741. Meanwhile, the Richmond office of U.S. Small Business Administration is hosting a free, one-day workshop at Northern Virginia Community College in Manassas Saturday, August 13th, on how faith-based groups can use its resources. Contact james.Williams@sba.gov to register.

BRIEF BRIEFS

HUD Secretary Jackson releases Urban Institute study that finds people with disabilities “face discrimination in up to half of rental housing inquiries”. . . DHCD seeks applications for grants of up to \$50,000 to help cover pre-development for new SRO facilities. . . Virginia Coalition for the Homeless holds annual meeting August 4th at 1st Baptist Church in Charlottesville. . . 400 young people volunteer for Rebuilding Together-Region 2000 to fix-up 70 homes in Lynchburg and Amherst, Bedford, Campbell and Nelson counties. . . Virginia Department of Historic Resources says rehabilitation tax credits funded 209 projects worth \$325 million in year ending July 31st, 2004.. . Wachovia Bank earns “outstanding” Community Reinvestment Act rating for October 1st, 2000 to June 30th, 2003. . . Virginia Commission for Arts awards \$557,925 to 125 localities. . . City of Lynchburg launches campaign to inspect 3,500 rental properties. . . Thomas Jefferson PDC moving to 401 East Water Street in Charlottesville. . . Governor Warner names Yvonne Toms Allmond of Norfolk to VHDA Board. . . *Danville Register Bee* features Danville Redevelopment & Housing’s homeownership efforts at its HOPE VI revitalization area. . . Reggie Gordon to leave Homeward to direct William Byrd Community House. . . Richmond Mayor Wilder says City joining national effort to reduce vacant, blighted buildings. . . HHS awards People, Inc. \$200,000 Rural Health Care grant to serve Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Washington counties. . . Noah Schwartz, formerly with Monticello Area Community Action, named executive director of Charlottesville Redevelopment & Housing. . . HUD posts market analysis of Charlottesville metro at http://www.huduser.org/publications/econdev/mkt_analysis.html . . . EPA sets September 16th as due date for Brownfields Job Training Grants. . . DHCD awards \$145,000 in General Assembly funds to 8 non-profits for capacity building. . . Register for Virginia’s Sustainable Futures Summit September 13th to 15th in Richmond at www.vsf3.org. . . Virginia Peninsula Association of REALTORS announces REALTORFest at Hampton Convention Center September 8th. . . Historic Richmond Foundation and William Byrd Branch of Association for Preservation of Virginia Antiquities merge. . . Charlottesville Area Association of REALTORS wins Ambassador for Cities award from U.S. Conference of Mayors and National Association of REALTORS. . . Habitat for Humanity completes first home in Roanoke County. . . HUD Richmond okays \$1.4 million for Section 811 group homes for people with disabilities in Chesapeake, Hampton and Natural Bridge.

READY & REGISTERED FOR ROANOKE?

The time’s late so don’t wait to register – NOW! - for 2005 Governor’s Housing Conference September 14th through 16th at Hotel Roanoke. Learn more at www.dhcd.virginia.gov or call 804/372-7171.

TARGETING HITS TARGET

A Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond/Local Initiatives Support Corporation study issued in July has found that Richmond’s Neighborhood in Bloom strategy targeting 80 percent of Federal housing aid in seven areas shows “even relatively uncompetitive, disadvantaged neighborhoods can be revitalized if public and private investments are predictable, sustained and spatially targeted.” The study – on-line at <http://www.richmondfed.org/> – found housing prices in target neighborhoods rose almost 10 percent faster than citywide average with 5.3 percent increases in areas within 5,000 feet of target areas. Crime rates fell almost three times faster than citywide.

DON’T FORGET

Virginia Department of Social Service’s August 15th deadline for cooling assistance – paying bills or deposits to operate cooling equipment, repairing central air or heat pumps, buying whole-house fan or window-unit. More at www.dss.state.va.us/benefit/energyasst.html

GOING FORWARD

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